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Mattawan man to be sentenced in March for 2023 death

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
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PAW PAW - On Monday, Jan. 27, Gregory Campos, 34, of Mattawan, was found guilty following a jury trial in 36th Circuit Court, Paw Paw, on four charges stemming from a 2023 incident in Waverly Township in which a 28 year-old Decatur woman was struck and killed by a truck driven by Campos, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Following the jury trial, Campos was found guilty on the following four charges: Count 1 - second degree murder, Count 2: assault w/great bodily harm, Count 3 - operating while intoxicated causing death, and Count 4 - possession of a controlled substance. Sentencing is scheduled for March 18, 2025. The incident occurred on Dec. 23, 2023, at approximately 2:45 a.m. in the 46000 block County Road 665, in Waverly Township.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said at the time of the incident, Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence in the 46000 block of County Road 665 for a report that a male subject had intentionally hit a female with a truck and drove it into a house. Upon arrival, deputies located the 33-year-old suspect still on scene and a seriously injured 28-year-old Decatur woman lying in the yard. The suspect was immediately detained, and medical assistance was provided to the female. Van Buren Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on scene and transported the female to the hospital, where she died from her injuries.

A second victim, a 28-year-old Paw Paw man, was also struck by the truck and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The initial investigation revealed that the suspect arrived at the resi-dence looking for his girlfriend, but she was not there. An altercation took place between the two victims and the suspect in the driveway of the residence. The suspect then intentionally struck both subjects with his truck leaving the female mortally injured in the yard. The male victim tried to escape into the residence after being hit the first time and the suspect crashed his truck into the residence trying to hit him again.

The truck became disabled, and the suspect remained at the scene. When the suspect was taken into custody there was methamphetamine located on the individual, who also admit-ted to using methamphetamine prior to coming to the residence. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Van Buren County Jail.

Paw Paw High School students receive top honors at choir festival

Paw Paw choir students had a great day at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac. The students prepared two pieces to sing in front of experienced adjudicators, and they received excellent feedback on their performances. All soloists/ensembles who received a Division I rating also qualified for the State Solo & Ensemble Festival in April. Student/Ensemble Name (Rating): Select Treble Ensemble (I) Michael Touchtone (I) Caleb White (I) Haydn Perkins (II

Investigation leads to arrest in connection with multiple thefts

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

A 40-year-old Kalamazoo County man, who was arrested Thursday morning, January 30, in Kalamazoo County on two outstanding warrants, now faces additional charges stemming from thefts throughout Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Over the past several months, Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies and Michigan State Po-lice troopers have been investigating a series of thefts, including storage unit break-ins, trailer thefts, and residential burglaries across the region. On Jan. 29, a break-in occurred at a home in Decatur Township, where items were stolen. The homeowner's surveillance cameras captured footage of the suspect and his vehicle, which was shared on social media, spurring further inves-tigation.

On Jan. 30, at approximately 8:30 a.m., the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip about the suspect's vehicle and its location, which was reportedly at a residence about a mile into Kalamazoo County. Deputies set up surveillance and observed the suspect's ve-hicle in the 10000 block of WP Avenue. Deputies, assisted by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office, attempted to make a traffic stop as the vehicle was leaving the residence, the suspect pulled back into the driveway and then fled on foot. Deputies and detectives gave chase, and the suspect was apprehended, attempting to gain entry into a neighboring pole barn through a win-dow. The suspect, who was not named pending potential charges, was arrested on the outstand-ing warrants of parole absconder and dangerous drugs, both issued out of Kalamazoo County.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said, "Remarkably, the suspect was wearing the same clothes that were visible in the surveillance footage from the Decatur Township burglary." A subsequent search warrant was executed at the location where authorities recovered stolen property from several storage unit break-ins throughout Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties.

Additionally, property from an unreported break-in at a home in Porter Township was also recovered. The homeowners in Porter Township were out of town at the time of the break-in, and the crime had not yet been reported. Among the stolen items recovered was a significant amount of sports memorabilia, previously reported as stolen from an Army veteran's storage unit. "Much of the memorabilia was successfully returned to the veteran's family, this as the veteran had since passed away," said Sheriff Abbott.

As the investigation progresses, more thefts are being linked to the suspect. The Van Bu-ren County Sheriff's Office and Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office are continuing their collabora-tion and will forward findings to their respective prosecutors for potential charges. Additional charges for resisting arrest and drug possession are expected.

Sheriff Abbott urges the public to remain vigilant, report suspicious activities, and consid-er utilizing security surveillance systems to help identify and apprehend criminals, as demon-strated in this case.

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Paw Paw High School students names to state honors choirs

This past weekend, several Paw Paw Public Schools choir students participated in the State Honors Choirs. These students went through multiple rounds of auditions, and they learned some very challenging pieces of music. They had the opportunity to perform this music with the best student singers in the state of Michigan, and they represented their school and community with pride. Middle School State Honors Choir (not pictured): Reagan Nielsen, Josielyn Resseguie and Brenna Rogers. Paw Paw High School State Honors Choir, shown above, Kami Crandall, Hayden Lemieux, Natalie Mitchell, Mariela Pantoja, Ben Plested, Grant Sholander and Bobby VanFleet.

VBISD talks about federal freezing of funds

By Paul Garrod
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President Donald Trump's budget office rescinded an order freezing spending on federal grants, less than two days after it sparked much confusion and legal challenges across the county.

The memo was issued on Monday, Jan. 27. On Tuesday, Jan. 29, a federal judge temporarily blocked part of the Trump administration's freeze. The memo was rescinded on Wednesday, Jan. 29, two days later.

Van Buren Intermediate School District Superintendent David Manson said in a memo sent Tuesday, Jan. 28, to his staff, "Many of you are aware that for a brief time yesterday, the White House paused federal funding for several grants and loans. This pause was temporarily blocked by a federal judge; however, we are uncertain how long the judicial block will remain in effect. Since Van Buren ISD relies on federal funding and grants to provide services and programming, any pause has the potential to impact our students, families, staff, and community."

Manson continued, "As a result, the Van Buren ISD leadership team is closely monitoring this situation and working diligently to gather accurate information about any potential impacts. We are actively engaging with our state and federal partners to advocate for the resources necessary to maintain the quality and consistency of the programs we offer. Additionally, we are committed to keeping our staff informed as new information becomes available.

He concluded, "Providing support to our students, staff, and families is central to the Van Buren ISD mission, and we remain dedicated to serving our community. Thank you for your patience and dedication as we navigate these challenges. Please know that we do not have any immediate concern about the job security of any ISD employees."

In a brief statement from Van Buren County Administrator John Faul, he told The Courier-Leader, "The county is a good steward of taxpayer dollars. We appreciate what federal grants we do receive for the services we can provide with the funds, and of course, we comply with whatever regulations that come with them. Our policy is that if there is a grant funded program and the grant does not continue, then the program does not continue. Currently, we receive federal funds across the county, including those received by the courts, elected officials, and administrative departments such as public transit. Because the order was rescinded, at this time we are not affected. However, we will monitor the situation as it evolves and will follow directives as they are received."

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

Ice surrounds Black River tugboat

An ice-clogged Black River in South Haven surrounds the Elsie J fish tug moored at the Michigan Maritime Museum dock. Operating from the same location since 1945, the tug now hosts sunset cruises and other voyages on Lake MIchigan during the summer months. Photo by Tom Renner

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Lawton driver killed in crash

By Paul Garrod
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ANTWERP TWP. – A 96-year-old Lawton area man was killed Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 28, when he failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of County Road 657 and 58th Avenue in Antwerp Township and was t-boned by another vehicle, according to a press release form the Van Biren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reports that Sheriff's deputies were dispatched at approximately 3:15 p.m. on a report of a multiple vehicle crash. Initial information provided to Van Buren County Central Dispatch and replayed to responding units was that the male driver of one of the vehicles had suffered serious injury and was not breathing.

Deputies reported on scene investigation and witness statements showed that the 96-year-old male driver of a Ford F-150 pickup truck, traveling eastbound on 58th Avenue, failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection with County Road 657. His vehicle proceeded through the stop sign and was t-boned by a Chevy Silverado, traveling northbound on County Road 657. The initial crash sent the eastbound Ford F-150 into a Nissan NV200 work van, stopped at the stop sign on westbound 58th Avenue.

Sheriff Abbott said the 96-year-old male driver of the Ford F-150 was partially ejected because of the crash with his upper torso having broken through the rear glass window of the truck cab. He was found to not be wearing a seat belt and unfortunately died at the scene because of injuries sustained in the crash.

The driver and passenger of the northbound Chevy Silverado received non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to a local hospital for evaluation and treatment.

The driver of the Nissan NV200 was uninjured.

Sheriff Abbot said at this time, it is not known if the male driver of the Ford F-150 suffered a medical incident while driving. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in this incident.

The investigation remains open currently and the name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification to next of kin.

Suspect Apprehended in assault incident

LAWTON – On Wednesday, Jan. 29, at approximately 10:30 a.m. an unknown male subject entered a business in the Village of Lawton and asked staff for an application for employment. The female staff member walked into an office to retrieve an application for the male subject and found that the male subject followed her into the office and assault her. The female victim pushed the attacker away and the unknown male subject fled in a vehicle in an unknown direction, according to a press release from the Lawton Police Department.

Village of Lawton Police Chief Greg Cordes said Lawton Police Department investigated the incident and at approximately 1:30 p.m., officers received a tip that led to the suspect at his home in the 600 block of White Oak Road in the Village of Lawton. The 38-year-old male subject, Phillip Brown, a resident of the Village of Lawton, was arrested on charges of criminal sexual conduct and transported to the Van Buren County Jail, Paw Paw.

Police Chief Cordes said the public is encouraged to contact the Lawton Police Department with any information related to similar assaults that have occurred.

Domestic violence suspect faces several felony charges

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Lawton. The investigation showed that an altercation took place, and a firearm was shot off during it. The suspect was charged with several felonies for the incident.

"Just a reminder to the public that we partner with Safe Kids to provide families in need of car seats free of charge. This is a program our office has been utilizing for several years with positive results in helping those in need. If anyone knows a family that is in need of a child seat, please reach out to Detective Sipes at our office," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a three-vehicle car crash in Antwerp Township. The investigation showed that the 96-year-old Lawton resident ran the stop sign which resulted in getting t-boned by another vehicle. Through the event, a third vehicle which was setting at the intersection of the incident also was struck. "The at-fault driver lost his life at the scene. The driver that was sitting at the intersection was uninjured and the other driver was taken to a local hospital for treatment with non-life-threatening injuries," said Sheriff Abbott. The accident remains under investigation.

Uniform Response recovered vast amounts of stolen property in Decatur Township. The recovered property came from numerous break-ins and larcenies from Cass Berrien, and Van Buren counties. "This is an ongoing investigation and once it's complete, it'll be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review and charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response Recovered a stolen truck out of Kalamazoo that was abandoned in the woods in Lawrence Township. "The truck was used in a theft of a trailer from the Christie Lake area," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Uniform Response, Narcotic detectives, and Criminal Investigation detectives from our office executed a search warrant in Kalamazoo County. Our office and other agencies have been taking and working multiple break-ins at storage units and larcenies across our county and Kalamazoo County. Multiple items were recovered at the scene of the search warrant. Other agencies are working in conjunction with our office on this matter. After everything is completed, reports will be sent to the appropriate Prosecutor's Office for charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Antwerp Township. After investigating the incident, the suspect was charged with domestic violence, tele-communications service-malicious use, and an outstanding child support warrant.

"I'd like to thank the public for the tips and information that comes in at different times when our office has asked for help. This past week was no different after the story ran about walnut trees being stolen not only in our county, but in others. We received tips on them and it's paying off. Thank you," said Sheriff Abbott.

Commissioners approve appointments to Materials Management Commission

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Commissioners on Jan. 28, approved two appointments to the Materials Management Commission.

Commissioners approved the appointment of Kimberly Haneberg, City of Dowagiac, superintendent of Department of Public Services, with extensive experience in public works and compost facility, operations, to fill the role of compost facility operator.

Donovan Kelley was approved as a materials recovery facility operator. Most recently, Kelley was a site manager for Recycle Works, Elkhart, IN, with over 14 years of experience in solid waste and recycling management.

Kelly will be responsible for developing and implementing the Materials Management Plan for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.

The two vacancies developed due to the departure of previous appointees from their places of employment.

Commissioners said these appointments are essential to ensuring continuity in the MMPC's mission to manage materials effectively and promote sustainable practices across the three counties.

Commissioners approved a request from the Van Buren Conservation District for permission to use county property for their Paw Paw Recycle Roundup Event scheduled for June 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The request includes the use of the parking lot at the Van Buren Community Mental Health building, 801 Hazen St., Paw Paw, restrooms located in the Van Buren County Buildings and Grounds barn, 753 Hazen St., and access to a forklift for the event.

The Paw Paw Recycle Roundup event aims to provide the community with an opportunity to recycle large tires and other materials, supporting the Conservation District's mission to promote sustainable practices and environmental stewardship in Van Buren County. The Van Buren Conservation District submitted the required application and proof of insurance as part of the request, ensuring compliance with county policies for the use of county property.

Commissioners approved a request from County Finance Director, Rebecca Grabemeyer, for out of state travel for Grabemeyer and Rebekka Garvison, county finance operations manager, to attend the annual GFOA Conference for Government Finance Officers from June 28 to July 2, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

Commissioners said the conference is essential for finance officers to maintain their credentials in government finance and to ensure they are up to date with the current issues facing government finance professionals. Over 70 CPE accredited sessions offered at this training include, but are not limited to, financial reporting, petty cash, budgeting, investments, auditing, debt, payroll, asset management, GASB standards, procurement, and long-term planning.

Funding for air travel, accommodation and conference fees will be covered under existing budget line items.

Commissioners approved the transfer of $715,000 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund, ensuring continued compliance with the Budget Stabilization Act and supporting the County's financial stability.

Commissioners approved the purchase of a patrol car for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office from Tapper Ford, Paw Paw, for $45,408.96.

Commissioners also approved the purchase of a vehicle for the Friend of the Court from Tapper Ford, Paw Paw, for $51,651. The Van Buren County Friend of the Court (FOC) collaborates with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office to employ two deputies who provide critical security and operational support, including office security, inmate and juvenile transport, and serving legal paperwork.

The FOC currently utilizes two transport vehicles for these duties, a 2023 Ford Explorer and a 2017 Dodge Charger, the latter has accumulated 141,000 miles and is no longer suitable for operational needs due to high mileage, intermittent ABS issues, lack of modern safety features, and poor functionality for transport duties.

The replacement of the 2017 Dodge Charger was included in the county's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY25/26 at an estimated cost of $75,000, but a recent quote from Tapper Ford for a 2025 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor was $51,651, with potential accessory costs dependent on equipment transferability from the Charger to the new vehicle. The purchase will be made under a state bid purchase agreement, with Tapper Ford being the preferred vendor due to their expertise in bid specifications, ensuring an efficient and cost-effective procurement process.

Commissioners approved the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Fiscal Year 2026 annual application. MDOT requires all public transit agencies in the state of Michigan to complete and submit an annual application and supporting documents each year to secure operating and capital funding for the following fiscal year. Commissioners said the submission of the FY 2026 annual application is critical for Van Buren County's Public Transit program to receive necessary funding to continue providing transportation services to the community.

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Maritime Museum to present unique perspective on Underground Railroad

Dr. Larry McClellan

By James Windell

Everyone knows that a secret network of safehouses and routes made up the underground railroad that enabled Black men, women and children to escape from the South and make their way into northern states and into Canada.

But how did they get across Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and other waterways?

That's the untold story that will be the focus of a presentation by Dr. Larry McClellan and the Michigan Maritime Museum on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

In a program titled Freedom via Water! Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad on and near Lake Michigan, McClellan will weave a tale of freedom seekers in the Great Lakes region.

"Most of the research that has been done has been on the underground railroad has centered in and around the Chicago area," says Ashley Deming, Director of Education and Programs at the Michigan Maritime Museum. "Chicago was considered a sort of sanctuary city for freedom seekers. So what we've always heard was that slaves got to Chicago, then they would come into Michigan and they would take the railroad to Detroit and then they would get to Canada."

However, in talking to Dr. McClellan, Professor Emeritus, Governors State University, and author of the book The Underground Railroad South of Chicago, about a program for their lecture series, Deming raised the question of how freedom seekers crossed Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and sometimes Lake Superior to get to Canada.

"I asked Larry McClellan if there had been any cohesive study to find out how they were moving across the water. What was the network of people they were using? What boats were part of this network helping them get to freedom?"

McClellan said it was an interesting perspective, but he didn't know of any research on the topic. He said he would do his own research and try to piece together the story. In his presentation, McClellan will chart the evolution of the northeastern Illinois freedom network and show how, despite its small Black community, Chicago emerged as a point of refuge. The 1848 completion of the I & M Canal and later the Chicago to Detroit train system created more opportunities for Black slaves to escape slavery. From eluding authorities to confronting kidnapping bands working out of St. Louis and southern Illinois, these stories of valor are inherently personal. Through deep research into local sources, McClellan presents the engrossing, entwined journeys of freedom seekers and the activists in Chicagoland who supported them.

McClellan includes specific freedom seeker journey stories and introduces Black and white activists who provided aid in a range of communities along particular routes. This presentation highlights how significant biracial collaboration led to friendships as Black and white abolitionists worked together to provide support for freedom seekers traveling through the area and ultimately to combat slavery in the United States.

Onward to Chicago: Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad in Northeastern Illinois, McClellan's 2023 book, received the national Underground Railroad Free Press 2023 Memorial Prize Award for the Advancement of Knowledge and the 2024 Book Award for Superior Achievement from the Illinois State Historical Society. He has presented at five Illinois state history conferences and three national conferences of the National Park Service Network to Freedom program. Currently, he is President of the Midwest Underground Railroad Network and serves on the Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force.

McClellan's presentation is part of the Museum's 2025 Whispers Across the Water program series that showcases minority contributions to Great Lakes maritime history and heritage.

"All of our programs are open to the public and anyone who has an interest in this topic is welcome to attend," Deming says. "We are hoping this will be a first step in a much longer story that we may be able to tell in the future, but for now it provides a platform for other organizations to use for more research."

Freedom via Water! Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad on and near Lake Michigan takes place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at the Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven.

The lecture series is made possible thanks to the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike & Susan Smith. Tickets are free for Museum members and $10 for non-members. Doors open at 6 PM. For more information about this event and other Museum events, visit their website at https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

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South Haven Area Water Sewer Authority selects officers

Allan Overhiser

James Windell

The South Haven Area Water Sewer Authority held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, and officers were selected for the coming year.

Unanimously approved as Chairman of the South Haven Area Water Sewer Authority (SHAWSA) was Allan Overhiser, with Bill Roberts elected Secretary, and Al Dubuisson elected Treasurer.

Allan Overhiser, Casco Township Supervisor, has been Chairman of SHAWSA since the inception of SHAWSA six years ago.

"We are fortunate to have Allan as our board chairman," Dana Burd, Director of the Department of Public Works said. "His knowledge of the community and its utility systems has been instrumental in strengthening the South Haven area's infrastructure. Allan's leadership has helped the Authority secure significant state and federal funding in recent years."

Among other items on the agenda was an audit presentation from Vredeveld Haefner, LLC, for fiscal year 2023-2024. The audit report showed that SHAWSA has assets of $62,351,766.00 with a total revenue of $13,564,746.00 for 2024. SHAWSA's assets exceed liabilities by more than $26 million.

Burd reported that SHAWSA is continuing the implementation of the state mandate to replace all lead pipe services and that work should be completed in the next few years. He said that progress is being made on the water storage tank, which will replace the Standpipe storage facility. Burd said that vertical construction on the water storage tank should begin this spring.

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Child Care Center to open at Lake Michigan College

By James Windell

A new childcare center will soon be opening up at Lake Michigan College's South Haven campus.

Although Lake Michigan College had a childcare center for nearly 20 years operated by Kidzone Childcare Center, that facility closed in 2024. The newly refurbished center will be run by Scribble Daycare.

"I know the Scribbles group is looking to get in as soon as possible and they are working on the facility right now," Jeremy Burleson, Associate Dean of the Lake Michigan College South Haven Campus, said. "We hope we can get construction done so they will be able to move in during March."

Burleson said that programming will be similar to what Kidzone had and that the center will be open to any children in the community as well as to Lake Michigan College staff and students.

Aware of the lack of high-quality childcare in the community, Burleson said that was a motivation for reopening a childcare center. "That is one of the reasons we wanted to try and get another daycare in our facility," he said. "Kidzone played a great role in the community for a long time. When that program ended, we definitely wanted to get another childcare company in here."

The operators of the Kidzone Childcare Center announced their retirement last year and Lake Michigan College began a search for a new childcare company with whom they could partner. Scribble Daycare, a South Haven area business, met their needs and will run centers at both the South Haven Campus and the Benton Harbor Campus of Lake Michigan College.

According to Burleson, an advantage of having a childcare center has to do with Lake Michigan College's child development program. "Our goal is to integrate what Scribbles does with our child development program," he said. "Hopefully, we can get more childcare workers out in the community. Having a childcare program on the campus will allow our students a chance to enhance their education. It may even lead to a change in career paths for some of our students."

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The Lodge wins Ice Breaker Chili Cook-Off for 4th straight year

By James Windell

What's the secret to The Lodge's winning the trophy in the Chili-Cook-Off for the 4th straight year?

Co-owner Meredith Sharrod isn't giving out any of her secrets, but she says that the chili they served during the Ice Breaker winter festival this past weekend in South Haven is no different from what is on their menu every day.

Left to right: Brett Truckenbrodt, Erica Degrandchamp, Meredith Sharrod;

"It's our signature White Chicken Chili," Sharrod said in an interview after receiving the trophy. "We serve the same chili every year during Ice Breaker. We don't try to do anything special or out of the ordinary. It's what we normally serve."

The Chili Cook-Off has become a key event in South Haven's Ice Breaker winter event. The Michigan Maritime Museum came in second in the Chili Cook-Off voting and Three Blondes Brewing finished third. Café Julia received an honorable mention.

Sharrod says that her restaurant makes from 20 to 40 gallons of chili every day. "When we first opened the restaurant," she says, "it was just in our rotation of soups. But after we won the first year, we said 'Okay, the people obviously like it so we are going to start serving it every day.'"

Sharrod and her business partner, Erica Degrandchamp, opened The Lodge, in June, 2021. The recipe for the White Chicken Chili comes from Sharrod herself.

"When we were building The Lodge," she explains, "we did a lot of recipe-testing at home. I love to cook and most of the recipes on the menu are mine. I would make this chili for us at home, and I don't eat meat so I would make it with Jackfruit, which is a vegetarian option to chicken. Once we opened the restaurant, I decided to start making it with chicken. So, I just transitioned it from the way I would make chili at home for my husband Brett."

The Lodge is located at 10336 Blue Star Highway, South Haven. Sharrod gives a lot of credit to her staff for their success.

"We made over 80 gallons of chili this week for Ice Breaker and our entire staff worked extremely hard to make and serve the chili," she says. "We couldn't do it without all of their ded-ication and hard work."

The Lodge Staff with Trophy: Left to right: Cameron Morse; Alex Ely; Nicky Merritt; Brett Truckenbrodt; Oralia Sezunzda; Taylor Cochrane & Winter Ellis

Heart health a focus by Bronson Health cardiologist

By James Windell

Each year February is designated as American Heart Month. With the major holiday season just past us, February is a great time to become more aware of heart disease and how to pre-vent it.

The American Heart Association points out that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. In fact, cardiovascular diseases, which include heart disease and stroke, claimed more lives in this country than all forms of cancer and accidental deaths the number two and three causes of death combined.

Dr. Atanas Iliev, a cardiologist at Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare, points out that more than 805,000 people in the U.S. have a heart attack each year. For 600,000 of these people, it's their first heart attack.

"This is why we shine a light on heart health every February so people of all ages can become hearthealthy and learn how to care for their hearts year round," Iliev wrote in an article about improving heart health.

In a recent interview, Iliev said that unfortunately he usually sees patients after they have shown signs of heart problems. He pointed out that that one of the most common signs that people experience is shortness of breath. "That's one of the primary symptoms people first exhibit," Iliev said. "It may show up after some exertion, but then it progresses to shortness of breath with even minimal exertion."

Other signs of heart problems include fatigue or dizziness, swelling in the legs or abdomen, and in more serious cases, patients suffer from chest pains.

High blood pressure, Iliev added, is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. "However, these can be managed," he said. "Proper treatment can greatly lower your risk of heart disease. The first step to reduce your risk is being aware of it." But he said that if you have any of these signs, you should see your primary care physician.

"I always stress to people that they should not ignore any symptoms," he said. "It's human nature for people to ignore things or wait until the symptoms get worse. So, I always emphasize that you shouldn't ignore any symptoms. Doctors like to help patients and it's always better to bring something up with your doctor rather than to wait until it's too late."

Primary prevention of heart problems is very important Iliev says. "I always talk to my patients and tell them that in order to prevent heart problems it is important to maintain good blood pressure." He went on to talk about the best ways of maintaining a healthy heart and preventing cardiovascular problems. Besides controlling your blood pressure, he says it is critical to stop smoking and watch your cholesterol level.

"A big problem in this country is obesity," Iliev says. "Obesity is an umbrella risk factor that actually drives a lot of other risk factors, such as diabetes and high blood pressure."

He said that the latest statistics suggest that 74 % of Americans are overweight and that is a risk factor for heart problems. "I preach to people that they shouldn't sit around," he says. "Even minimal exercise helps and the only thing that raises good cholesterol is being active."

Healthy eating habits are also related to obesity and heart health. "I always talk to people about eating a healthy diet for the sake of their heart," he explains. "In broad terms this means staying away from carbohydrates because a low carbohydrate diet has been found to be most ef-fective in maintaining good heart health."

Dr. Iliev explains that having a healthy heart starts with your lifestyle. "There are some risk factors we cannot change," he says, "like our age, our family history, or our gender. However, there are definitely things within our control that we can do. Besides not smoking, imbibing little alcohol, eating a low carb diet, and getting exercise, he says that getting plenty of rest and good sleep is essential.

"Sleep is important for a healthy heart because a lack of adequate sleep makes other risk factors more prominent," Iliev says. "It has been shown that when people don't sleep well or they don't get enough sleep that they tend to overeat and have higher levels of stress in the body. It is easier to manage some of the other risk factors if you are getting good sleep."

Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare has offices in South Haven, Allegan, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Paw Paw.

DR. ATANAS ILIEV

What You Should Know about Heart Disease

Risk Factors for Heart Disease

People over the age of 35 should get a heart screening if they have any of these issues:

- Family history of heart disease
- High blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Diabetes (especially over the age of 30)
- Smoking history
- History of heart attack

Warning Signs of Heart Disease

Occasional shortness of breath is normal, however, if it occurs without physical activity or ex-ertion, it might be a sign your heart isn't pumping as well as it should. Other warning signs of heart disease include:

- Chest pain
- Rapid, pounding or irregular heartbeats
- Persistent dry cough or coughing up mucus or blood
- Fatigue, fainting or feeling lightheaded
- Swelling in the feet, ankles or legs

It's important to tell your doctor if you have any signs above and your family history of heart disease.

How Doctors Detect Heart Disease

If you are worried about your heart health, call your doctor to discuss testing options. To check for heart disease, your doctor may perform these tests:

- Physical exam: The doctor reviews your medical history, checks your weight and blood pressure and listens to your heart and lungs.
- Blood test: A blood sample is taken, usually from your arm and analyzed in a lab.
- Chest x-ray: Taken while standing or lying down, this checks for an enlarged heart or flu-id buildup in your lungs.
- Exercise stress test: While hooked to heart monitors, you walk on a treadmill with in-creasing speed and incline to measure your heart's response to exercise.
- Electrocardiogram (EKG): Small electrodes (plastic discs) placed on your chest record your heart's electrical activity to identify irregular rhythms.
- Echocardiography ("echo"): This ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images of your heart.
- Computer tomography (CT) heart scan: A CT scan creates pictures of your heart, al-lowing specialists to detect early signs of heart disease, even if you have no symptoms yet.

Call your doctor if you have any signs or symptoms of heart disease. If you have trouble breathing, heaviness or tightness in your chest or cannot think clearly, call 911 right away. These are signs of a heart attack.

If you or someone you know has risk factors for heart disease and would like to schedule a heart scan, call Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare (269) 341-8700 or vis-it bronsonhealth.com/heartscan.

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VIEWPOINT

Even county governments spend unwisely: Case study, Allegan County

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

Our government, whether it is at the local, county, state or federal level, makes numerous decisions on how they spend taxpayers' money. Some we can agree with, some we can't. I would like to think with the advent of social media, more people are paying attention as to how their money is being spent.

Here's an example of one contract signed by Allegan County that came across my desk. I was shocked when I read it. To summarize Allegan County, approved by the Board of Commissioners has been subsidizing an internet media company located in Saginaw.

The company, Issue Media Group, in their accepted proposal, said, "Because of the decade-long decline of local newspapers across the country, many communities are left with significantly diminished news coverage, creating community news deserts in many rural communities."

Mind you this addressed to Allegan County where there are three vibrant weekly newspapers- the Allegan County News, the Saugatuck/Douglas Commercial Record and the Plainwell/Otsego Union Enterprise. Our office is smack dab across from the courthouse and we spend six figures each year on reporters to cover the news in the county. Allegan County is hardly a "news desert."

We are not subsidized by the County. I never thought of asking for taxpayers to pay our way. That money should go to essential services, not some company 150 miles away that if you look at their current articles, not one is about Allegan County. To say I'm upset, is an understatement.

One also has to wonder how you and I can even subscribe to the subsidized Issue Media Group to find the so-called articles. In Allegan County it is called The Lakeshore and actually covers several counties up and down the Lake Michigan Lakeshore. In mid-Michigan it is called The Epicenter. Unless you are familiar with the publications, you wouldn't know they exist. I venture to say at least 90 percent of the taxpayers that pay towards the pubs, are not aware of their existence.

On the other hand our newspapers are everywhere. Any store that has a large volume of customers has them. You can purchase a subscription and get them through mail. You can get a subscription online directly to your email.

Issue Media was also able to get money from the Allegan County Community Foundation, which granted is a private charity, but again, why would they subsidize a so-called competitor of their own county newspapers. The same could be asked of Mid-Michigan College in Clare County, that is also providing public money to support Issue Media. In the case of both entities we publish numerous press releases free of charge about their good deeds.

You gotta wonder what else our county governments are spending needless dollars on. We know spending is crazy at the federal and state levels. It is well documented. Thank God, for DOGE and their efforts to clean it up at the federal level. But one would expect county governments to be more diligent when it comes to spending our money.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Sixty years ago a classmate said something insulting and demeaning. It left me with a choice: I could either turn his nose to 12 or tattle to the teacher. I chose the latter and right after school he turned my nose to 12 as a reminder that snitches get stitches.

I have long wondered why some people make insulting remarks to others. Most seem to have low self-esteem, then try to cover it up by putting down someone else. It is a smokescreen much like the Wizard of Oz used to hide that he was a mortal behind a curtain.

Once I understood that, I started to pity them. It is sad they choose to live this way when they could be much happier. Given the chance, they drag others down with them.

I found myself happier after cutting them out of my life. We can refuse to walk on eggshells around them or listen comfortably to their vitriol, even when it is cloaked in an attempt at humor.

A good example is the late British actress Maggie Smith, whose writers created the screen persona of a sharp-tongued character. On the show "Downton Abbey" she insulted everyone around her, including her own family.

In real life Smith was a very different person, just as the character Jack Benny as a perpetual cheapskate was different from Jack Benny who was generous in real life.

A few years ago a move was afoot to silence anyone who said anything with which some group disagreed. They were boycotted because they did not make those other parties "feel safe."

It is dangerous trying to "cancel" opposing voices. It is another form of coercion, bullying and oppression. One recent example came with the Israeli war against Hamas in Gaza. On some college campuses, anyone who dared to say anything positive about Israel, much less support them, was risking their reputation, livelihood and life.

Politics has always been a firestorm of insults. Periodically an elected or appointed official gets "mustard up their nose," as the French call it, and demands that opponents not be allowed to say something irritating.

It often comes down to the limits of free speech. It apparently is all right for one person to bully and insult others, then cry "foul" if someone returns the favor. It is a matter of "I can say whatever I like and insult whomever I choose, but don't you dare try it."

In 2019 England Parliament member Ann Widdecombe was asked to speak at the Oxford University Union on the topic of free speech. She said:

"Nobody has the right to live their lives being protected from offense, insults or hurt feelings. It is an occasional hazard of living in society. If you really can't take it, become a hermit."

Bishop Mariann Budde has been criticized for her sermon in the National Cathedral at the National Prayer Service. Like thousands of clergy before her, she urged showing mercy to those on the fringes of society.

There are nearly 100 references to mercy in the Old Testament, and many more in the Gospels and Epistles. This message of mercy has been a theme used by countless clergy in countless churches over the centuries.

Apparently, it was not well received by some people in the front rows. Instead of saying nothing, or at least nothing publicly, they replied with insults. One U.S. Congressman suggested the bishop's name go on the deportation list.

This might be the thin edge of a wedge that leads to censorship of what we can say without being reported or even punished. It could, as in the days of New England's Puritan theocracy, lead to censorship of the pulpit.

One important role of religion is speaking truth to power. Faith leaders have courageously done that for centuries. It has always been the responsibility of the clergy to point out to even powerful people they are still accountable to God.

Even when truth is spoken in gentleness and love, it is risky because those in power don't like to be challenged.

We must remain vigilant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We all need to acknowledge reality, not Trump's version

To the Editor,

I really didn't want to get into this. And I really didn't think I would need to, but here we are.....

After bragging about grabbing unwilling women by the p#*%y, and creeping around the dressing rooms of the Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA pageants (and apparently male golfers locker rooms), after dodging the draft and then insulting those who served, suggesting people ingest or inject bleach during a global pandemic, lied about a stolen election and incited an attack on our US Capital Building, lied about immigrants eating cat and dogs on live national television, two impeachments, and thirty something felony convictions; somehow, the majority of the voting public, frustrated with the far far left, a centuries old conflict between Israel and Palestine, a decades old problem at our southern border, and the pace of recovery from a mismanaged global pandemic in which the incredibly rich somehow got incredibly richer; refused to acknowledge what we all saw with our own eyes, and heard with our own ears, and re-elected Donald Trump as our president. We seem to believe every obvious lie, and disbelieve every obvious truth.

The editor of this paper rejoiced that we were going to "crown" a new president. I would not normally feel the need to mention it, but these are not normal times. Please remember that we inaugurate presidents. Kings are crowned.

A couple of years ago, I went on a WW2 "Band of Brothers" history tour. We followed the path of Easy Company from their training grounds in England, to jumping into France the night before D-day, to fighting and dying their way through Nazi occupied Europe, to enduring the bitter cold winter and unimaginable bombardment at the Battle of the Bulge, to liberating a satellite camp of the larger Dachau concentration camp, to the "Eagles Nest" (Hitler's lavish Mountaintop retreat). Visiting the multiple American soldier's cemeteries, and the seemingly endless rows of American servicemen's graves was very emotional. But it wasn't until we visited Dachau concentration camp, that I realized that in the span of about 12 years, Germany had gone from a democracy in 1933, to allied troops liberating concentration camps in 1945.

As I write this, it is January 27, 2025. National Holocaust Remembrance Day. One week ago, Elon Musk did a Sieg Heil salute at an inauguration event. Yes, we all saw what we thought we saw. No, he was not waving or dabbing or hailing a cab. That was a Nazi salute at an inauguration event for an American President!

President Trump says he is an open book. He tells us he is crazy rich and pays too much in taxes, yet he refuses to release his tax returns. He tells us he is the smartest person in the world, yet he sued to keep his grades from becoming public. He tells us the 2020 election was stolen, yet not a single person has made that claim after putting their hand on a bible and swearing to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth in a court of law. He tells us government is corrupt and has too many employees, yet he gave everyone in his family government jobs. He tells us he is going to get government out of our lives, unless you are a woman of course, then he is all up in your business. He tells us he wants government accountability, yet he fired 18 inspectors general. He tells us he supports police and is tough on crime, yet he pardoned 1500 convicted (many confessed and most on video) perpetrators of the January 6 riot/failed coup/storming of the capital who attacked police. He tells us he will end the war in Ukraine; true, surrendering to Putin will end it.

I believe that Donald Trump and his enablers are setting women, the middle class, and equality back generations. He has surrounded himself with self-serving billionaires, while doing everything he can to separate hard working people from their money. Yes, I'm looking at you; gold shoes, cowboy/astronaut/Rambo posters, NFT's, trading cards, Trump Bibles and digital Trump coins. Yes, the far left is too far left. Yes, we need to solve the issues on our southern border. Not because they are all horrible people, but because every country has the right to maintain secure borders, and have a functioning immigration system. However, we should not have to give up our democracy or our humanity to do it. We are a country of 330 million people, living on a planet with eight billion people on it. No matter how much we might like to, we cannot solve the problems of every living soul on this planet. Although, just because we can't do everything, doesn't mean we shouldn't do everything we can.

I do not know who all killed JFK, or if aliens or bigfoot exist. But I do know that I live on a round planet that is experiencing climate change, we sent men to the moon, January 6 was not a peaceful tour of the capital, science is real, the holocaust happened, the sky is blue and water is wet. I wonder at what point we will resume acknowledging reality. I hope it is not too late.

God Bless our American Democracy, and ALL of His people,

David Van Zoeren

RETURN OF THE TOPHET??

Dear Editor:

Some historians believe that one of the primary reasons that the Romans destroyed Carthage in the Third Punic War about 150 years before the birth of Christ was because the Carthaginians practiced child sacrifice, infanticide. A tophet was the altar where the baby was murdered. Yes, the Romans were pagans themselves, but the hideous custom of burning babies alive was abhorrent to even an empire that eventually martyred Christians.

Our US Senate recently could not pass legislation that would require medical care be provided to a baby who survives an abortion. This means that the doomed child can be left on an exam table to struggle for her last breaths while she waits to die a "natural" death. The so-called healthcare providers in attendance have no legal obligation to intervene to save the baby's life. Can you say "infanticide?"

Former President Biden and his vice president both promoted unrestricted abortion up to the moment of birth at the end of a full nine month gestation. That president claimed to be a practicing Catholic, a church that forbids abortion. Who knows what his VP believed except that she claimed abortion was so-called "reproductive health care" in which there is no re-production and certainly no health benefits for the aborted baby.

Vice President Vance is a converted Catholic who refreshingly spoke at the recent annual March for Life in Washington. He declared that America must have MORE, not fewer, children born if we are to be a thriving society.

Michigan's Governor Whitmer created a "Growing Michigan Together Council" last summer with Executive Order 2023-4. The order stated: "Michigan's population growth began to slow in the 1970s, and in the 21st century, Michigan grew more slowly than all but one state. For Michigan to thrive in the decades ahead, we must ensure that our state is a place that everyone can and wants to call home." How does Whitmer's support of all abortions (to include taxpayer funding of it if she could), and her denial of support to alternative pregnancy centers make sense then? Is this irony or hypocrisy?

The Department of Justice under our previous president misused the FACE act to prosecute and persecute peaceful protestors and passive prayers at abortion clinics. Perhaps the information we now have had confirmed about President Biden's mental incompetence will excuse him at his next and final Judgement Day. Thankfully and mercifully our current president has pardoned those folks.

Sadly, abortion numbers have increased in the US since Roe versus Wade was reversed,. Those of us who believe that innocent life must be protected as our Declaration of Independence declares can never stop supporting a robust resistance to abortion. Join a local or state Right to Life team, support pregnancy resource centers such as Kalamazoo Alternatives, let your representatives know that you are pro-life, and pray. Someday, with hope, the Planned Parenthood tophets will be shut down.....

Jack Bley, Paw Paw

Trump's J6 pardons are outrageous

Letter to Editor (And all who claim to cherish Democracy),

Hundreds of police officers were injured at our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021—attacked by a mob of thousands attempting to stop the peaceful transfer of power. Law enforcement officers suffered traumatic brain injuries, broken ribs, concussions, fractures, and more from being attacked with flag poles, metal stakes, fire extinguishers, and mace. People died that day, and others in the weeks that followed. The insurrection resulted in one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement in the United States since the Sept.11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With his first official action upon return to the White House, Trump pardoned all of the criminals convicted with crimes related to the insurrection. Among the over 1500 rioters pardoned, were more than 200 who had pleaded guilty to assaulting police. Leaders of the extremist Proud Boys and Oath Keepers groups who were serving up to 22--year sentences for their roles in the violent attempt to overturn the 2020 election were released with the stroke of Trump's pen.

It is not happenstance that Donald Trump announced that he was going to make these pardons on the day he declared his candidacy at Waco, Texas. By announcing his candidacy at the scene of the 1993 bloody and violent confrontation between members of an American extremist movement and law enforcement, in which many officers lost their lives, Trump ingratiated himself into the insurrectionist, anti-government movement. He knew what he was doing when he pardoned these individuals. He was sending his militia back out onto the streets of America to silence those that would oppose him.

And already that is happening. One pardoned rioter was re-arrested within days. And another was shot and killed by police during an altercation. The most recognizable rioter who wore horns and coyote fur during his rampage through the US Capitol was pardoned and immediately tweeted "NOW I AM GONNA BUY SOME MOTHA FU*KIN GUNS!!!".

Trump has done a lot of awful things in his first days of tenure, but his pardons are outrageously dangerous. They mock any party claims of law and order. Instead, they clearly indicate the support of chaos, crime, crassness, and anarchy. Even in the most hallowed halls of our Democracy.

With sincere concern,

Leonda Kessinger Shroyer

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Obituaries

Dr. David Millard

Dr. David Millard passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Jan. 30, 2025. David was born Feb. 9, 1928, in Three Rivers, Mich., the son of Carl E. Millard and Bernice (Allen) Millard.

David graduated from Three Rivers High School (1945) and obtained his undergraduate and Medical (1953) degrees from the University of Michigan.

David married Margaret Bowker in 1950. David and Margaret shared 14 years of friendship, followed by 63 years of a loving marriage prior to her passing in 2013. David met Margaret in sixth grade while playing croquet at a Ladies Aid picnic.

In 1955, he was drafted into the Navy and was assigned as the only medical physician on the USS Magoffin APA 199. He was responsible for the health and well-being of the 600 crew members, the Marines, and other passengers.

Upon completing his active military service, David and Margaret settled in the community of Paw Paw. David served the community of Paw Paw in Family Practice and as a medical examiner for more than 40 years. He was also on the board of Lake View Community Hospital and a member of the Michigan State and Van Buren County Medical Societies. During his semi-retirement years, he was medical director of Hospice for Van Buren and Cass counties.

David and Margaret raised four children, Nancy, Carol, Vicki and Bill. They actively supported their children's various school, scouting and Van Buren Folk Dancers adventures.

The family enjoyed traveling the United States in their RV. Once the children were grown, David and Margaret added international travel to their RV excursions. Several trips included researching their genealogy and heritage.

David and his family were members of the United Methodist Church, Paw Paw. David served on the administrative council, finance committee and was chairman of the Endowment Committee for many years.

Work, faith and family were the cornerstones of David's life.

David is survived by his four children, Nancy (Brian) Huntsman, Carol (Darrell) Roose, Vicki (James) McElheny, William (Susie) Millard; his eight grandchildren, Kelli and Joshua Huntsman, Michelle Ryan, Kevin Roose, Kirk McElheny, Teri Fanizza, David and Nathaniel Millard; and his five great-grandchildren, Chase and Hailey McElheny, Sutton and Benjamin Fanizza and Lincoln Roose.

David will be laid to rest privately at Riverside Cemetery, Three Rivers. There will be a memorial service announced in the summer at the United Methodist Church, Paw Paw.

John Albert Parker

John Albert Parker, 67, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully with his daughter and son at his side, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Medilodge of Kalamazoo, after a courageously fought battle with Huntington's Disease. He was born Dec. 20, 1957, in Chicago, the son of Cornelius Parker and Gertrude (Reiff) Parker.

John worked in construction for many years as a project manager. He relocated to Michigan from Chicago. He enjoyed watching football, especially his Chicago Bears. He also liked to watch NASCAR and go bowling. John was a social man and loved meeting new people at social events. He adored his family and would give the shirt off his back to anyone who may need it. His compassion and kind heart will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his daughter, Carly (Alex Wait) Parker, his son, Kyle (Brooklyn Smith) Parker; sisters, Karen (Ken) Reinhofer, Fran (Frank) Dunglemann and Alice Parker; sister-in-law, Jennifer (Rodney) Sturgis and brother-in-law, PJ (Stacey) Moore.

John was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Tara (Moore) Parker in 2012.

Family and friends are invited to visit Friday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A celebration of life service will be held at noon with Chaplain Ellen officiating. John will be laid to rest at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Huntington's Disease Society of America or to Heartland Hospice. www.adamspawpaw.com

Arthur John Arens

Arthur John Arens, 96, of Lawton, passed away Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in Mattawan. He was born June 24, 1928, in Hancock, Michigan, the son of William Arens and Margaret (Pelkofer) Arens.

Arthur and his late wife, Dorothy, founded the Paw Paw Everlast Label Company and enjoyed working there for many years. Arthur also worked for the State of Michigan in the Liquor Control Commission.

He is survived by his brother, Charles J. Arens; brother-in-law, Ken Belttari, and many nieces and nephews.

Arthur was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Elaine (Belttari) Arens, on Nov. 15, 2020. He is also preceded by his three brothers, Edward, Daniel and Paul, and three sisters, Beatrice, Eleanor and Eunice.

Per Arthur's wishes, cremation has taken place. He will be laid to rest next to Dorothy at Forest Hill Cemetery, Houghton, Michigan this summer.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
657-7727 • 420 W. Michigan Ave.
Pastor Dan Phillips
SUNDAY Service: 10:00 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

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HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837 or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

CALVARY REFORMED CHURCH
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
SUNDAY Worship - 10 a.m.
Also acailable on Facebook live • JODI's Closet - Free Clothes
2nd Saturday of the month • Check website for additional days

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FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Rev. Jonathan Lam
SUNDAY MASS - 8AM & 11AM

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ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

DE TSMIA
Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

CAMPBELL MURCH
CEMETERY
MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

Adams FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

ho
HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

St JULIAN
winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

BRONSON
LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

SPORTS

Mattawan hockey team improves to 19-2-1

Mattawan's hockey team celebrates a goal at Big Rapids on Saturday.

Mattawan goalkeeper Gavin Welch keeps his eye on the puck for Mattawan against Big Rapids.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN— Brayden Lewis had three goals for Mattawan and sophomore goalie Gavin Welch held the Big Rapids offense to two goals in a 4-2 nonleague Wildcat win at Ewigleben Ice Arena on Saturday.

Mattawan (19-2-1), which has not lost since a week after Thanksgiving weekend, fired out to a 3-1 lead after the second period and matched Big Rapids with a goal apiece in the final 17 minutes.

Coach Ben Miller's team also had a 6-3 win one Friday night at Cadillac.

"'We're playing really good team hockey and not playing individual hockey," Miller said. "It's what a coach wants to see."

Mattawan is on a 16-game unbeaten streak. Big Rapids was coming off a successful month of January with a 7-1 record.

"I'm always hard on them and I think we have a lot left to do," Miller said.

"Honestly I like our battle and the way we continued to play," Big Rapids coach Tim Blashill said. "But Mattawan's a really good team. I thought we had them at times. They're very skilled. That's the kind of team you want to play."

Lewis opened the scoring at 14:10 of the first period, assisted by Carson Smith. In the second, Lewis scored, assisted by Dominic Vezeau. With 8:23 to play in the period, Wyatt Skiera tallied for Big Rapids, assisted by Taivi Toivanen. Smith scored late in the period for Mattawan, assisted by Lewis.

Lewis scored with 6:40 to play in the game, assisted by Michael Kletke. Mattawan killed a two-minute 5-on-3 power play for Big Rapids but with 2:40 remaining, Olavi Lindbohn notched BR's second goal.

"I thought it was a good game," Lewis said. "We got the job done."

Mattawan is scheduled to play on Feb. 8 at Okemos.

In the win over Cadillac "It was a good opportunity for some of our young kids to get out there," Miller said. "We rolled all four lines. Everybody got ice time."

Lewis and Carson Smith had two goals. Hunter Enrici had one and Royce Teal had one. Maverick Van Heukelom was the winning goalie.

South Haven sophomore continues to shine

Ly'Nique Cunningham has emerged as one of the top players in the state as a sophomore

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Ly'Nique Cunningham has been having quite a sophomore season for South Havens' girls basketball team.

She had 23 points, nine rebounds and six steals in a win over Watervliet.

"Cunningham, a sophomore point guard, is a high quality guard that leads on both ends of the floor, can drive, shoot from midrange, as well as from deep," South Haven coach Joey Weaver said.

Cunningham had 37 points, five rebounds, five steals and five assists against Holland Black River.

Cunningham had 30 points, four rebounds, four assists, and five steals in leading South Haven over Fennville 56-31.

Cunningham was averaging 33 points through five games and has kept it going She had 39 points against Gobles.

Cunningham admits she's been getting a lot of defensive attention.

"Usually if I see someone open I'm going to try get them the ball," she said. "There's no sense in me hogging the ball."

Cunningham said triples are her best shot. She shoots the ball a lot outside of the season to stay in good shape, She estimates her shooting percentage is at 40 percent right now. Another strength has been getting to the basket.

"I'm fast and I'm able to get around people," she said. "I feel I'm really good at defense; that's my main part, playing defense. That affects the game if you can stop somebody instead of scoring all the time."

Forcing a player to use her opposite hand weak side would be a key strategy, Cunningham said. "If she's right handed, force her to use her left. If she's left handed, force her to use her right."

South Haven enters this week with an 11-1 record.

"There's things we still have to work on as a team," Cunningham said. "Overall I think we're doing pretty good on defense and scoring when we need to."

Cunningham is an excellent overall athlete. Basketball is her best sport and softball is No. 2. She's an outfielder. She also runs track.

Gobles wrestlers tie for third

Gobles girls wrestlers show off their medals for the conference meet.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — On Saturday, Gobles' varsity girls spent the day in Coloma for the first ever all girls SAC championships.

"All six of our girls wrestled tough and brought home hardware," coach Dan Morris said. "The girls also tied with Allegan for third place in team score. Alyssa Sparks took Silver after battling through a round robin style bracket and only taking one loss to a tough wrestler from Schoolcraft and beating her teammate by points. Freedom Morris earned a bronze medal after winning two of her four matches in a tough bracket. Probably one of the toughest brackets she will ever wrestle as she and her practice partner/ best friend faced off on the mat.

"Daisy Estrada finished the day with only one last minute loss to a tough opponent from South Haven, securing a Silver medal. Sydney Raseman redirected her mindset after a few tough losses, to beat her last opponent of the day by pin. Sydney continues to grow as a wrestler and has a contagious smile no matter what she is going through. Sydney finished the day in 4th place."

Morris added: Orion Ennis wrestled about as well as she has all year after changing weight classes. Orion made the right moves on the mat and came home with a silver medal. Neely Ketchum came home with a 4th place finish after fighting through some tough opponents. Neely embraces one of our biggest values every time she steps on the mat, which is gratitude. Win or lose she shows that she is just happy to be there."

The Tigers move on to the post season, starting with Michigan's first ever all Girls Districts next Sunday, Feb. 9.

Gobles boys basketball at 8-6, girls at 11-4

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles boys basketball team last week on Monday lost in overtime 64-56 to Galesburg.

On Tuesday, it was Gobles 51, Constantine 37; and one Friday it was Delton Kellogg 56, Gobles 33

On Monday, it was Marcellus 5l Gobles 46.

Gobles is home on Feb. against Fennville and home on Feb. 7 vs. Holland Black River.

Goblet is 8-6 overall and in the conference is 5-2.

The Gobles girls are 11-4 and in the middle of a three-game winning streak.

In their last three games, they have beaten Schoolcraft 52—51, Delton Kellogg 74-65 and Marcellus 59-33.

The Gobles girls are home with Holland Black River on Feb. 7 and on Feb. 10 with Allegan on the road. They are at Galesburg Augusta on Fe

Gobles boy wrestlers win two matches

Gobles boys wrestlers won their medals in SAC action last week.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Coach Erin Carlin reports his Gobles wrestling team went 2-0 last week.

Gobles on Jan 29 defeated Coloma 54-29 and Watervliet 72-9. Then, on Feb 1, they placed four wrestlers at the SAC Individuals.

Danny Timms, Jose Boger, Mason Mansfield and Edgar Raseman each earned medals at the

SAC Tournament in Coloma. In doing so, Danny Timms, Mason Mansfield, and Edgar Raseman earned SAC All-Conference (Second Team Recognition).

"Austin Barnhart, Dominic Redaway, and Hunter Piper each got their first postseason wins at the SAC Conference Tournament," Carlin said. "Austin and Dominic have been showing flashes of what they could do all year and Hunter has been a solid contributor to the varsity line-up since the beginning of the season. Their post-season wins tell us they are getting primed to be the next men up.

"Due to injuries and illness, Tigers wrestling sat seven starters for the SAC tournament in preparation for District Playoffs. These kids are all competitors and weren't necessarily happy with the coach's decision to sit them, but they are also coachable kids who will always put the team before themselves."

The Tigers enter the Team District playoffs against Martin on Wednesday and then take their top 14 wrestlers to the Individual District Playoffs in Lawton on Saturday.

Gobles is 9-3 Conference and 32-5 overall.

"With 32 duals won, the 24/24 Tigers have set a new School Season Record for Duals won in a season. More bluntly, we have set a new standard for Gobles wrestling," Carlin said.

Lawton improves to 11-2

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's girls basketball team had a five-game winning streak going into a scheduled game Feb. 4 at home with Bridgman.

Lawton defeated Cassopolis on Monday, Jan. 27 69-41. Lawton beat Schoolcraft 51-39 and Martin 41-30. Lawton is 11-2 overall.

In the win over Martin, Halie Bishop had 18 points and 12 seals Bailey Allison had six points 12 rebounds and five sets and Kenzie Terpstra had 10 points and four steals.

"There was no school and no practices all week but no excuses," Lawton coach Jeremy Macon said. "It was a very sloppy game but the girls put a feisty Martin team away."

Halie Bishop had 13 points and seven steals, Bailey Allison had 13 points and 10 rebounds and Kenzee Terpstra had eight points and two steals.

Lawton beat Holland Black River 63-29 and Constantine 42-33.

Lawton boys are 4-6 and have lost four straight including 56-53 to Cassopolis on Jan. 27.

Bangor, Lawrence post wins

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — On Friday, it was Bangor 39 Decator 33 at Bangor.

Stat Leaders:

Jaelynn Little 16 points; Lexi Wisniewski 12 points; K'liyana O'Steen 8 points; O'Steen 4 rebounds; Little 9 steals

Coach Bret Witkowski: :Vikings played great Decatur team at home and fell behind 8-2 but fought back to take a lead at halftime and held on in the second half forcing Decatur into 30 turnovers.

Bangor record is overall 5-5; Conference; 3-4

Lawrence - 40 Hartford - 31

(Senior) Hailey Camp led Lawrence in this recent win with 12 points, 15 rebounds. (Sophmore) Colleen McCaw had 9 points and (Senior) Brooklyn Remelts - 8 Points.

South Haven wins again

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's girls basketball team on Jan. 29 had a 43-38 win over the Kalamazoo Cougars.

Ly'Nique Cunningham had 24 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

Molly Verseput had 10 points, and eight rebounds. Neveah Cooper had three points as did Da'Vyne Crowley. Reagan Hahn had two points.

On Friday, South Haven won 43-19 at Coloma.

Cunningham scored 27 points and had three rebounds and nine steals. Cooper had two points and eight rebounds Crowley had five points and three steals; Grieves had five points and five rebounds.

Bangor boys fall to Cassopolis

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor lost at home vs Cassopolis 46-59. Jonah Luter scored 19 points and Landen Valentine scored 11 points.

Bangor boys also lost to White Pigeon on Jan. 17

White Pigeon had quarter leads of 16-6, 38-25 and 58-50. White Pigeon had an 18-9 scoring advantage in the final quarter.

Jonah Luter had four triple for Bangor and 17 total points. Jaret McLoy had 11 points for Bangor. J. Pulling had four triple for 12 points. Christian Kovel had five points.

Bangor is 1-7 in the league and 1-10 overall.

Bangor has home games on Jan. 30 with Decatur, Feb. 4 with Lawrence and Feb. 5 with Bloomingdale.

The Bangor basketball girls are 3-5. They lost 61-28 to White Pigeon on Jan. 16. They won 48-24 at Comstock. They lost 37-21 at Colma.

The girls are home with Decator on Jan. 31/

PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2024-1219-DE
Estate of **GEORGIANNA LAMORE PHOENIX**
Date of Birth: **June 3,1950 (6/3/1950)**

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Georgianna Lamore Phoenix, died November 6, 2022. (11/6/2022)**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Frances Helen Campos,** peronal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

January 19,2025 (1/19/2025)

Attorney:
IN PRO PER
Personal Representative
Frances helen Campos
7105 North 120 West Apt. 2
Middlebury, IN 46540
574-596-2886

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: SID L. BERRY; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/30/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-016961; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sid L. Berry and Dana M. Berry, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 23, 2007 and recorded April 30, 2007 in Liber 1482, Page 767 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Apex Bank, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Fifty-Two and 58/100 Dollars ($138,052.58).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Columbia, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
COMMENCING ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE AT A POINT 180 FEET EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH AND SOUTH EIGHTH LINE 603.42 FEET; THENCE EASTERLY 609.6 FEET TO A POINT 603.6 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 29; THENCE SOUTHERLY 603.6 FEET TO THE SOUTH SECTION LINE AT A POINT 609.42 FEET EASTERLY FROM THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE WESTERLY ON SAID SOUTH SECTION LINE 609.42 FEET TO BEGINNING, EXCEPT COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE WEST ON SAID SOUTH LINE OF THE SECTION 150 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTH AND SOUTH EIGHTH LINE 338 FEET; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH SECTION LINE TO THE EAST LINE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE SOUTH ON SAID EAST LINE TO BEGINNING.
55280 Country Road 380, Grand Junction, Michigan 49056
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 30, 2025
File No. 24-016961
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-30)(02-20)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: KELLY L. BRAUTIGAM; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/30/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-016217; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kelly L. Brautigam, to Terry Dornan, Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2001 and recorded October 8, 2001 in Liber 1340, Page 945 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bayview Financial Mortgage Pass-Through Trust 2006-D, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-D, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen and 93/100 Dollars ($50,217.93).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of DECATUR, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
LOT 16, BLOCK L, OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT OF 1905, BEING A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWN 4 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF, EXCEPT THE SOUTHEASTERLY 50 FEET WIDE OF LOT 16.
201w Saint Marys St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 30, 2025
File No. 24-016217
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-30)(02-20)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR; THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. "ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice."
Default having been made in the condition of a Future Advance Mortgage, dated November 21, 2008, by Charles Kirby, Sally A. Kirby husband and wife and Charles E. A. Kirby, , as Mortgagors, to FIRST STATE BANK OF DECATUR, a Michigan Banking Corporation, as Mortgagee, and recorded on November 24, 2008, at Liber 1510, Page 290, Van Buren County Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid at the date of this Notice of Sale SIXY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY AND 66/100 ($66,750.66) DOLLARS, principal; THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 00/100 (3,270.00) DOLLARS, interest to 12/22/24; plus interest at the rate of 8.46% from and after November 7, 2023, ONE THOUSAND AND NO/IOO ($1,000.00) DOLLARS, late charges and THREE HUNDRED AND 10/100 ($310.00) for force placed insurance, for a total of SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 66/100 ($71,330.66), as of the date of this notice, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by Charles Kirby, Sally A. Kirby and Charles E. A. Kirby, husband and wife to FIRST STATE BANK OF DECATUR. The amount due on the mortgage might be greater on the day of the sale and that a foreclosure sale doesn't entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. No legal or equitable proceeding having been instituted to recover the debt, or any part of the debt, secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage contained has become operative by reason of such default. By reason of such default, the Mortgagor has declared the entire unpaid amount of said mortgage due and payable forthwith.
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2025, at 1 PM at the East Entrance lobby of the Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, that being the place of holding the Circuit Court in and for the County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder, at public sale, for the purpose of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid upon the mortgage, together with interest at 4.600 per cent, legal costs, attorney fees and also any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays before the sale, and expenses of sale, as provided by law and in the mortgage, or so much thereof, as may be necessary to satisfy the debt, the lands and premises mentioned and described in the mortgage is as follows: Property located in the Township of Decatur, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, described as follows: Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 26, Town 4 South, Range 15 West, described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section ; thence West along the South line of said Section, 1994.00 feet to a point which is 634.60 feet East the South Quarter corner of said Section; thence North at right angles to said South line, 834.09 feet; thence South 89 degrees 29'51" East, 1586.07 feet; thence South 75 degrees 30'39" East, 48.53 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 26'59" West, parallel with the East line of said Section, 197.46 feet; thence South 88 degrees 00'00" East, 354.975 feet to the East line of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 26'59" East along said East line, 240.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 37'23" West, 345.69 feet; thence North 09 degrees 20'36" West, 57.97 feet to the point of beginning.
Parcel No. 80-10-026-008-20 commonly referred to as 91402 Celery Center Road, Decatur, Michigan 49045.
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises are abandoned. If the premises are abandoned, the redemption period will be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or upon expiration of fifteen (15) days after the Mortgagor is given notice pursuant to MCL 600.3241a(b) that the premises are considered abandoned and Mortgagor, Mortgagor's heirs, executor or administrator or a person lawfully claiming from or under one (1) of them has not given the written notice required by MCL 600.3241 a(c) stating that the premises are not abandoned.
TO ALL PURCHASERS: the foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the Sheriff's Sale in the event a third party buys the property and there is a simultaneous resolution with the Mortgagors. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus any applicable interest.
If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the Mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
DATED: January 7, 2025 Brian T. DeVries
Attorney for Mortgagee First State Bank
P.O. Box 329
Schoolcraft, MI 49087 (269) 679-4535

(1-16)(2-6)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BILLIE LOU TAYLOR; ATTY: WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A. - WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-001291; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM a.m./p.m. on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Billie Lou Taylor AKA Billie Lou Danielson and Rodney Cartwright and Joshua Danielson. of Van Buren County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 24th day of June, 2004, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 29th day of July, 2004, Liber 1418, Page 854, of the Van Buren County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $14,739.35 plus accrued interest at 8.25000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Lawrence, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Beginning on the East line of Section 7, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, at a point in the center line of Red Arrow Highway 1040.00 feet North of the Southeast Corner of the Section; thence North 88 degrees 31 minutes 00 seconds West on the center line of Red Arrow Highway, 200.56; thence continue North 81 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds West on the center line, 83.61 feet; thence North 242.66 feet; thence south 89 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds East 283.30 feet to the East Section line; thence South on same, 255.41 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 56080 Red Arrow Highway, Lawrence, MI 49064 Tax ID: 80-13-007-051-20 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be twelve months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: January 16, 2025
By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 24-001291-1

(01-16)(02-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ERNEST JAMES COREY; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-015961; INSURER: FHLMC
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ernest James Corey, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Old Kent Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated March 28, 2001 and recorded April 3, 2001 in Liber 1329, Page 367 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, N. A., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five and 69/100 Dollars ($32,475.69).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 13, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section 35; thence Westerly along the South line of said Section to the Southeast corner of the West 10 acres of the East 30 acres of the Southeast Quarter of said Southeast Quarter according to the Government survey thereof and the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence Northerly along the East line of the West 10 acres of the East 30 acres of the Southeast Quarter of said Southeast Quarter according to the Government Survey thereof to the North line of the Southeast Quarter of said Southeast Quarter according to the Government Survey thereof; thence Westerly along said North line to the West

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Public Act 188 of 1954 Proceedings
NOTICE OF SHERIDAN ROAD MAINTENACE HEARING
Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose (area of footage) constitutes more than 50 percent of the total (area of footage) of the hereinafter described Sheridan Road Maintenance special assessment district and the township board of the Township of Paw Paw proposes to repair and maintain the roadway to create a special assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the district within which the foregoing maintenance is proposed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: All properties that abut Sheridan Road a loop from 35 ½ street back to 35 ½ street.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board has received an estimate of the costs of such repair in the approximate amount of $ 70,000.00, has placed them on file with the township clerk, and has passed a motion tentatively declaring its intention to create the special assessment district. The township board has also tentatively found the petitions to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said estimates of cost, proposed assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the township clerk from the date of this notice trough the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the petitions, district, and estimate of costs will be held at the Paw Paw Township Hall at 114 North Gremps Street Paw Paw, Michigan, commencing at 6 o'clock p.m. on February 10th, 2025.

At the hearing the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to the estimates and costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have. American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice THE PAW PAW TOWNSHIP HALL IS BARRIER FREE. The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Public Hearing upon 2 business days notice. Contact: Rebecca Payne, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK, 269-657- 4340 ext. 125

Rebecca F. Payne
Paw Paw Township Clerk
114 North Gremps Street
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
(269)657-4340 ext. 125

PUBLIC NOTICE
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The Waverly Township March Board of Review for 2025 will be held at the Waverly Township Hall, 42114 M-43 Hwy, on the following dates:

March 4th, 2025 (8:00am – 9:00am) = **Organizational Meeting – No Appeals**
March 10th, 2025 (10:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm - 5:00pm) = **Appeal Hearing***
March 11th, 2025 (2:00pm – 5:00pm & 6:00pm – 9:00 pm) = **Appeal Hearing***

*By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 11TH, 2025.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Class	Ratio	Factor	Class	Ratio	Factor
*Agricultural	46.96%	1.06474	*Commercial	46.38%	1.07805
*Residential	43.94%	1.13792	*Industrial	50.00%	1.00000
*Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000			

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon (5) days notice.
Contact: (Starr Houston – 269-657-6847)

Anne Richmond
Assessor

Starr Houston
Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 9

line of the West 10 acres of the East 30 acres of the Southeast Quarter of said Southeast Quarter according to the Government Survey thereof; thence Southerly along said West line to the South line of Section 35; thence Easterly along said South line to the place of beginning.
36176 72nd Avenue, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 16, 2025
File No. 24-015961
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-16)(02-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: NATHAN ENDERS; ATTY: HLADIK ONORATO & FEDERMAN LLP - HLADIK ONORATO & FEDERMAN LLP; 1ST PUB: 1/16/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-03380; INSURER: FHA
MORTGAGE SALE - Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, made by Nathan Enders and Brandi Enders, husband and wife, Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc (MERS) as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc, Mortgagee, dated the 20th day of April, 2018 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for The County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 24th day of April, 2018 in Liber 1667 of Van Buren County Records, page 834, said Mortgage having been assigned to Servbank, SB on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of Eighty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Four and 52/100 ($84,744.52). Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM o'clock Local Time on the 20th day of February, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The bid may include interest thereon at 5.62500 per annum and all legal costs, charges, and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, including any and all structures, and homes, manufactured or otherwise, located thereon, situated in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and described as follows, to wit: LOT(S) 15 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 14, BLOCK ZZ, VILLAGE OF DECATUR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT OF 1905, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 31. Commonly known as 310 E EDGAR BERGEN BLVD, DECATUR, MI 49045 During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days after the foreclosure sale or when the time to provide the notice required by the statute expires, whichever is later. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, of if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 01/16/2025 Servbank, SB Mortgagee _____HLADIK, ONORATO & FEDERMAN, LLP Athena Aitas (P61824) Attorney for Servicer 3290 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 117 Troy, MI 48084 (248)362-2600 AFB FHA Enders - 24-03380
1550337

(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, the 20th day of February, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by ROYAL TIDE PARTNERS II, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated March 30, 2022, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on April 7, 2022, in Liber 1736, Page 470 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Six and 71/100 Dollars ($688,796.71). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Covert, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
Part of the South Half of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 18 West, described as: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North, along the East line of said Section, 515.00 feet; thence West, at right angles to said East line, to the Easterly right-of-way line of 1-196 Highway; thence Southwesterly, along said Easterly right-of-way line, to the South line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence Easterly, along the South line of said Southwest Quarter to the South Quarter post of Section 36; thence Easterly, along the South line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 36, to the place of beginning.
Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.
Commonly known as: 47780 82nd Street and 47950 82nd Street, Coloma, Michigan 49038
P.P. #80-07-086-010-03 and 80-07-086-013-00
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale.If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: January 17, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
31802495

(1-17)(2-7)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: KRISTIN POTTER; Atty: ANDREW BARNES - ANDREW BARNES; 1st Pub: 1/16/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by KRISTIN POTTER, a single woman, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated May 14, 2020 and was recorded June 26, 2020 at Liber 1702 Page 76 of Van Buren County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 38/100 ($55,382.38) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a rate of 6.375% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the City of Hartford, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the South quarter post of Section 16, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan and running thence with bearings referenced to the West line of Allen Huntley and Stickney's Addition to the Village of Hartford as a meridian, East 599.32 feet, thence North along the Southerly extension of the Westerly line of said Subdivision 757.62 feet to the Westerly right-of-way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 30 degrees 30 minutes 29 seconds East 418.73 feet, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 25 degrees 48 minutes 48 seconds East 53.33 feet to the Northerly line to Pleasant Street, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 23 degrees 51 minutes 40 seconds East 127.18 feet, thence continuing around a curve to the left with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears North 21 degrees 43 minutes 32 seconds East 82.15 feet to the point of a beginning of this description, thence South 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds West (historically described as North 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East) 144.73 feet to the Easterly line of Pleasant Street, thence North along said Easterly line 75.09 feet to the Southerly line of South Street, thence North 87 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East along said Southerly line 172.65 feet to the Westerly line of the C&O Railroad; thence around a curve to the right with a radius of 2808.32 feet to the far end of a chord which bears South 20 degrees 03 minutes 29 seconds West 81.30 feet to beginning; Address: 201 Pleasant St., Hartford, MI 49057; Tax Parcel No.: 80-52-816-010-20. together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute.
DATED: January 16, 2025 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 269-287-2010

(01-16)(02-06)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Ron Craft; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 1/23/2025; Atty File #: 24-017259; Insurer: (unknown)
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ron Craft and Suzanne Burrows-Craft, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Equity Mortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 28, 2004 and recorded May 11, 2004 in Liber 1413, Page 644 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now

Continues on page 11

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider a levy increase of up to five (5) mills on the current millage rate, or other such amount as determined by the Village Council, to provide support for police operations and capital improvements within the district. This action would be in compliance with Public Act 33 of 1951. The current levy is five (5) mills. The Council shall consider any appropriate levy.

The Special Assessment District will include the same boundaries as the incorporated village and the tax levy will be on all "real" property, not "personal property".

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on **Monday, February 24, 2025 before the Village Council at 7:00 p.m.** in the Village meeting room at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The meeting will be held at the address below. Please send all written comments to:
Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com

TOWNSHIP OF ALMENA
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, to examine and review the 2025 Assessment Roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 13, 2025, Noon to 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

and on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. Contact the Assessor at 269-655-1144 or by email at **BEN.APGLLC@GMAIL.COM** for further information. Letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 11, 2025. Address listed below.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	48.28%	1.0356
Commercial	46.67%	1.0714
Industrial	45.18%	1.1067
Residential	45.93%	1.0886
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Joe Leduc, Supervisor Almena Township

Ben Brousseau, Assessor Almena Township

Almena Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, national origin, sex or disability.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Almena Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Almena Township by writing or calling.

Sandra Rickli
Almena Township Clerk
27625 County Road 375
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269.668.6910

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that a Public Hearing/Regular Meeting will be held by the Village of Decatur Village Council on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur Village Hall located at 114 North Phelps Street within the Village.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing include, in brief, the following:**

1. Notice of Public Hearing on Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year Budget 2025.
2. Notice of Public Hearing on Budget Adoption for Fiscal Year Budget 2026.

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	REVENUE FY 2026	EXPENSE FY 2026
101	GENERAL FUND	$1,435,603.00	$1,518,592.00
202	MAJOR ROAD FUND	$204,010.00	$92,600.00
203	LOCAL ROAD FUND	$211,177.00	$227,150.00
213	SALVAGE VIN FUND	$13,200.00	$13,200.00
204	STREETS FUND	$175,300.00	$125,000.00
244	BUSINESS LOANS FUND	$0	$0
245	HOME REHAB FUND	$0	$0
248	DDA FUND	$47,460.00	$40,050.00
590	SEWER FUND	$332,500.00	$341,091.88
591	WATER FUND	$ 1,027,400.00	$957,844.88
661	MOTOR POOL FUND	$159,500.00	$159,500.00
	OTHER	$168,290.00	$132,000.00
	GRAND TOTAL	**$3,774,440.00**	**$3,607,028.76**

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the draft amendments to the proposed mileages and budgets will be available at the public hearing.

The Village of Decatur will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Village Clerk.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
Megan Duncan, Village Clerk
Decatur Village Hall
114 North Phelps St.
Decatur, MI 49045

Public Notice

Continues from page 10

held by THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and 27/100 Dollars ($53,290.27).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of BANGOR, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF CASS STREET AT A POINT 465.00 FEET EAST OF THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE WEST, 102.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH, 86.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH MONROE STREET, 112.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF BLOCK 8, MONROE'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
108 E Cass Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 23, 2025
File No. 24-017259
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-23)(02-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Brian Eves; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 1/9/2025; Atty File #: DLN1549584; Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Brian Eves, an unmarried man, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated June 6, 2022, and recorded on June 10, 2022, in Liber 1739, on Page 459, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Fifty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars and 82/100 Dollars ($53,374.82) plus accrued interest at 9.000% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Pine Grove, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 5, VILLAGE OF KENDALL, as recorded in Liber 19, Page 554 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 26853 County Road 388, Gobles MI 49055—Tax Id #80-15-065-004-00
The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248) 352-4340

(01-09)(02-06)

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More Photos from South Haven's Ice Breaker Festival

photos by Tom Renner